

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01

/115 W

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R 020715 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5832

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1358

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR YO

SUBJ: GREEK- YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

1. GREEK EMBASSY COUNSELOR LYBEROPOULOS TOLD EMBASSY MARCH 30 THAT CAVALIERATOS' OUTBURST CONCERNING MACEDONIA WAS MOTIVATED BY MOUNTING GREEK UNHAPPINESS OVER GOY TENDENCY INJECT MACEDONIAN ISSUE AT ALL POSSIBLE POINTS DURING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE CITED GOY EFFORTS EMPLOY MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND PROMOTE SPECIAL SKOPJE- THESSALONIKI TIES, AS WELL AS REPEATED REFERENCES DURING NEGOTIATIONS TO "NON- EXISTENT" MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN GREECE. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT CAVALIERATOS' FIRM STAND WOULD CAUSE GOY DESIST FROM THESE EFFORTS, AND WHILE HE PREDICTED PRESENT FUROR WOULD SUBSIDE BEFORE LONG, HE FORECAST MACEDONIAN ISSUE WOULD CAUSE TENSION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS FOR YEARS TO COME. THIS NEED NOT PREVENT DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIC RELATIONS, HE OBSERVED, SINCE BOTH COUNTRIES NEED SUCH COOPERATION: YUGOSLAVIA IS VITAL TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR GREEK TRADE FLOWING TO WESTERN EUROPE AND ACCESS TO AEGEAN IMPORTANT TO YUGOSLAVIA AS WELL AS GREEK TRADE AND TOURISM.

2. LYBEROPOULOS NOTED THAT CAVILIERATOS' STATEMENT WAS MADE
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IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT GREEK- YUGOSLAV INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ATHENS, AND CLAIMED TIMING WAS FORTUNATE. IT GAVE GOY ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES: CANCEL MEETING AND RISK SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PROFITABLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH GREECE, OR TAKE IT ON THE CHIN AND CONTINUE AS BEFORE. THEY CHOSE LATTER ALTERNATIVE, AND AS OF NOW TALKS ARE PROCEEDING NORMALLY, HE SAID.
TOON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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